

PVRC NEWSLETTER AUGUST 1997

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PVRC Charter Members: W3GRF (SK), W4AAV (SK), W4KFC (SK), N0FFZ (SK), W4LUE, W7YS, VP2VI (W0DX), W3IKN, W4KFT.

PacketCluster Contest/DX System (MHz):

K3NA Frederick MD 145.630
W3LPL Glenwood MD 145.590 441.250
KE3Q Bowie MD 145.570 445.375
N3RR Rockville MD 145.510 441.325
N4OHE Mt.Weather VA 145.710 440.925
N4SR Woodbridge VA 145.630 *
WR3L Baltimore MD 145.610 440.950
K4FJ Mt. Vernon VA 145.770 *
K3MQH S Mountain PA 145.630

The system is sponsored by the Potomac Valley DX Spotting Network except for nodes marked with "*" are funded & operated by the Rappahannock DX Packetcluster Group.

PVRC on Internet. PVRC web site: <http://www.pvrc.org> courtesy of K3SA
PVRC/NC web site: <http://www.pagesz.net/~pvrc> courtesy of N4AF
PVRC reflector: [\[email protected\]](#) to join. [\[email protected\]](#) to post.

Dues are by donation. The mandatory \$10 dues have been discontinued. So please send your donation - hopefully at least \$10 - to Jim Horton, N3KTV, 8527 Calypso Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20879-1522. Make checks payable to PVRC. Thank you.

Newsletter Editor: Dick Wilder, K3DI, 913 Shore Acres Rd, Arnold, MD 21012-1724. The communication ports are: (410) 757-6706, FAX/modem 757-6720, [\[email protected\]](#), and the DXcluster. The deadline for articles is Monday, two weeks before the central meeting.

The Central Meeting is always the second Monday except during the summer. During June, July, and August an alternative to the central meeting are the various summer activities. The NW Region meets through the summer. Also, the Newsletter does not go on vacation.

PVRC Summer Meeting Calendar:

Thu	Aug 7	PVRC/NC meeting at Luna's at 6 PM.
Sat	Aug 16	Annual "Fowlfest" at W3YOZ, Churchton, MD. See p.2.
Tue	Aug 19	NW meeting, Legends Restr, Frederick MD at 8:00 PM
Sat	Sep 13	PA meeting at K3SWZ New Cumberland, PA

Sun	Sep 14	PVRC meeting at FAR Hamfest in Gaithersburg.
Mon	Sep 8	First central meeting of the fall.
Sat	Sep 20	Open house at Dave's, WR3L, Essex. MD. New hamshack with 10 mile view across water to NE. Needs operators!
Tue	Sep 16	NW meeting, Legends Restr, Frederick MD at 8:00 PM

PVRC FOWLFEST SATURDAY AUGUST 16TH NEAR CHURCHTON, MD

It's Fowlfest time; a joint PVRC and NCDXA meeting, hosted by Marty Johnson, W3YOZ, near Churchton south of Annapolis. Festivities start at noon on Saturday, August 16, with BBQ chicken and drinks. Some folks may bring the optional salad or dessert. Everybody should bring a big appetite and stories about contesting and Dxing!

Directions:

From Wilson Bridge: I-95/I-495 to MD Route 4 (PA Ave. South/East); turn off at MD Route 258 (Bristol/Deale); take 258 to MD Route 256; turn left and go to Rodgers Road; turn right, go to gravel road on left, turn left; go to 1062 sign, turn right and go to picnic grounds at the water's edge.

From U.S. Route 50/Beltway: Take Beltway to Route 50; take Route 50 east; after crossing Patuxent River the next turnoff is MD Route 424 (Davidsonville Road); take 424 and continue until it dead ends at MD Route 2; turn right, go 200 feet and turn left on Mill Swamp Road; continue to MD Route 468 (Muddy Creek Road); turn right on 468 and to MD Route 256 (look for Smith's Building Supply); turn right on MD Route 256 and continue to Rodgers Road (first left after the Churchton Post Office); turn left on Rodgers Road, go to gravel road on left; turn left, go to 1062 sign, turn right and go to water's edge.

From I-97: Take I-97 South to MD Route 665 (Allen Blvd.); take 665 to MD Route 2; take Route 2 south to Mill Swamp Road (first left after Route 424 on right); take Mill Swamp Road to MD Route 468 and follow the directions above.

TIME TO MODIFY THE LOGO? by Ed Steeble, K3IXD

In 1993 when PVRC members selected our logo the club only had a few active members from WV and PA, none from DE or NC. In the past several years the club has been very successful in recruiting members from DE, NC, PA, and WV. The time has come to consider modifying the logo to reflect the increased geographical coverage of PVRC. Shouldn't the PVRC logo recognize the presence of those active members not residing in either DC, MD or VA? Everyone should appreciate DE, NC, PA, and WV member's contributions to the aggregate scores in club competitions. Now, lets make members in DE, PA, NC and NC more a part of the club by including their state in the logo.

After a lot of thought I am suggesting the current logo be modified to include DE, NC, PA, and WV. Working on the premise that the current logo has become very recognizable worldwide, (it is even on the internet!), and we shouldn't obsolete any of the unused QSL cards, badges or shirts, I am presenting three modifications for the club's consideration. And at the

July NW regional meeting two additional changes were proposed.

But, if the club decides to modify the logo it will encounter some set up charges to modify the plate used to print the QSL cards, the art work for the badges, the art work for the t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and the disk to guide the embroidery machine. But those cost are less than if an entirely new logo was adopted.

Here are the five proposals:

Proposal #0

keep the logo as it is,

Proposal #1

has the states evenly spread around DC,

Proposal #2

has WV, VA, and NC below "the Potomac"

with PA, MD, and DE above "the Potomac",

Proposal #3

has a box inside the circle with MD, DC and outside the box,

Proposal #5

is a state map of the PVRC area inside the circle, it replaces the "Potomac River" and outline of DC. Another version of this is being submitted.

Color copies of Proposals 1, 2, and 3 were posted to the PVRC reflector.

The club can decide to keep the current logo, accept one of these proposals, or suggest other minor modification. Now we need someone familiar with graphics to produce the art work for the newsletter so a vote can be taken. The that person would produce the color overlay art work that we give to the companies that produce the badges, t-shirts, and QSL card. (I have a color copy of proposals 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4 in Microsoft Word version 6.)

At the July NC and NW Regional meetings, the straw votes favored proposal 2. I didn't hear whether or not a straw vote was taken at the "MYA" meeting.

A decision should be made this summer if we are to continue on our usual cycle of taking QSL card orders in the fall, t-shirts and golf shirts, etc. in the winter.

Anyone willing to help with the graphics? If so, contact me via PacketCluster(tm) (k3ixd>w3lpl), email ([\[email protected\]](#)), LL (410.489-7616), or via CBA.

LOGO COMMENTS by Dick Wilder, K3DI

Excuse me if I go mad with editorial power and voice my logo opinion here to the masses. I am in favor of a logo revision that will recognize our more distant members and, if I understand the last example, that most closely aligns with my humble opinion. That is, I believe that the logo should include a to scale 175-mile radius outline map with state

and coastal boundaries. It would be nice to include the DC boundary with "DC" next to it but, I believe, that could be deleted if it looks cluttered. The outline of MD, most if not all of DE, plus the entire outline of Chesapeake Bay would clearly be identifiable as a map. I believe that graphical clutter can be controlled by using either fine lines or shaded lines for the map. With this proposal, the actual line work for the map may be producible via computer generation from a map database and then the state acronyms added. I agree that the border should not be changed.

I should emphasize that the whole logo change recommendation is unofficial but seems to have wide interest. Therefore, I will make this Newsletter available to publish the various recommendations if our word processing can handle available graphics. We may be limited to black and white but I'll check with N3KTV who handles reproduction.

CENTRAL SUBREGION MEETING JULY 9 by Jack Hammett, K4VV

An informal dinner meeting was held at Morton's Rx at Tysons Corner, VA. Attending were Marty/W3YOZ, John/K4IQ, Norm/K3LYW, and Jack/K4VV. We had a pleasant evening of steaks and talk about antennas, towers, and station development. The food was great; the noise was challenging. We covered many 'war stories' about towers, and a few from Viet Nam and Thailand.

K3LYW comments: Best rotor? OR 2800P by M2. Source of used towers?...WB9Z/Jerry, Midwest Antenna Service. What damages a rotor?...

- 1) Leaving it at the end of rotation;
- 2) Letting finger slip off the brake while rotating; and
- 3) Putting Silicon (or other sealer) over the terminal strips (because it plugs a breathing hole). (Subject to edit by Norm.)

W3YOZ described his continuing development of the balloon antenna site and the progress at his PA mountaintop site for Field Day and VHF contesting.

K4IQ told of his progress towards activating the ridgetop site 1200 feet from his house. Clearing, hardline, and operations shed are done; the tower base is next.

K4VV is planning for a modest tower behind the house and is dealing with a neighbor to annex a narrow strip of land across the street.

PVRC/NC JULY 10th MEETING MINUTES by Pete Soper, KS4XG

Site. The meeting was held at N4AF's home in Apex from 6-9pm with good food and refreshments.

Attendees. AA4NC Will, N4AF Howie, K4HA Bob, N4CW Bert, K4MA Jim, NT4D Jay, KF4MOK Dave, W2CS Gary, KS4XG Pete, WA4ZXA Jim, N3QYE Jim, and Terry Floyd

Membership. This was the second meeting of Gary, W2CS -- Welcome to PVRC Gary! This was the first meeting of Jim, WA4ZXA. Since the meeting was quorate with 10 members in attendance a motion was made and voted on and Jim was inducted as a member of the NC chapter. Chapter membership is now

sixteen.

Club business and announcements. N4AF circulated drawings of the three proposed designs for a revised PVRC logo. He then asked for preferences. There were zero votes for design #1, 11 votes for design #2 and zero votes for design #3. The belief was that design #2 is geographically more realistic and the other design's square seemed extraneous. N4AF described the current southern boundaries of PVRC as a line passing through the following points: "Rt 77 where it crosses the NC/VA state line, SW edge of Winston Salem, Ramseur, Sanford, Benson, Goldsboro, Ayden, Chocowinity, and Point Harbor." There is interest in PVRC Teeshirts and QSL cards. KS4XG agreed to coordinate an order at the point the PVRC logo change is implemented.

N4AF explained that the KS4XG entry for the 10 meter contest was lost by the ARRL. The ARRL was presented with a copy of their email acknowledgment of receipt and after a few weeks they found the entry and indicated they would update their records. This score pushes PVRC over Florida Contest Group for the overall team club championship but it remains to be seen whether ARRL will acknowledge this. [late news: ARRL feedback makes KE3Q optimistic] N4AF stressed the expectation that the SCCC will be attacking Sweepstakes with a vengeance this year to take back the club championship. All agreed that maximum effort will be needed this year. When someone asked about winning strategy for Sweepstakes the consensus was to "make a lot of QSOs!"

WANTED: W2CS is looking for Rohn 25G for a tower project. He can be reached at [\[email protected\]](#).

WANTED: K4MA needs a 20 foot long, 2" diameter chrome molly mast. He can be reached at [\[email protected\]](#).

Member activities. N3QYE was the obvious winner with range and accuracy during the watermelon seed spitting contest that broke out during the meeting. We're hoping N4AF's wife didn't look out the window.

AA4NC, K4MA, K4HA, W2CS (and possibly N4CW) described their adventures at the Cary Amateur Radio Club Field Day effort (N4NC). Their CW QSO totals were very impressive this year and it appears that CARC may be exactly tied for first place in their category. There was much animated discussion about hypothetical missing log sheets or some other explanation of why the score isn't a tiny bit higher. AA4NC got a laugh as he described a very slow first hour caused by too-long VOX delay on the 1000MP he was using with QSK. The delay adjustment is inside that radio, a major inconvenience.

A show of hands indicated most attendees will be taking part in this weekend's IARU contest.

AA4NC and K4HA announced a coming Mosley Yard Sale as they dump their Pro67 and Pro57 antennas for new equipment. Will intends to put a second 402CD up to create a 40 meter stack.

WA4ZXA commented about how nice the CQ plaques are for last year's CQWW

contest. A few members got the new, improved IARU certificates from ARRL (first round omitted the year). Still no Sweepstakes certificates for some attendees. Jim asked about recommendations for a 1x3 callsign when the gate opens for advanced licensees. N4AF recommended FCC records that show when callsigns will become available.

Station upgrades. N4AF expects to close on new property near Chocowinity in a week or so. He plans to build a station that supports multisingle efforts.

W2CS asked about tower restrictions. As he lives in Chatham county (and the rest of the chapter lives elsewhere) it wasn't clear. Gary wants to put up a Rohn 25G tower. He also asked about which is the best contesting transceiver. Most votes on the contesting reflector still give the nod to the FT1000D and K4HA was enthusiastic about his 1000MP. When asked about the new FT920 there was a side splitting description of one big gun's judgement of this transceiver after he looked inside the cabinet at the electronics: "Nope, this one's no good. There isn't enough sh*t in it."

K4MA got base and anchor concrete in place for his 100 foot tower with help from AA4NC, K4HA, N4CW and KS4XG. About 150 bags of concrete went into the ground but it went quickly thanks to the mixer K4MA rented. Most of the holes were inaccessible by a redimix truck) K4MA has a TH6 in hand and will be buying a 402CD with the goal of being ready for the Fall contest season.

The KS4XG 68 foot foldover is up, thanks to help from N4AF, NT4D, and K3KO. Special thanks to Emily, KS4XG's unborn daughter, for holding off a few more days to allow this milestone. A few notes about getting the initial few tower sections up: K3KO's notched 2x4 idea was a lifesaver for holding the 35' length of tower part of the way up while we made "adjustments" to get it into the base hole and fully erect. Also Noalox on the section joints would have been wise to make the them slide together easier (apart from the conductivity benefit).

The next PVRC/NC meeting will be 6pm Thursday August 7th at Luna's (directions will be forthcoming from N4CW).

NW REGIONAL MEETING MINUTES - JULY 15, 1997 by Tyler Stewart K3MM

In attendance were members: K3MM, W3KB, NE3H, W3EKT, N3KTV, K3IXD, K4VV, W3UR, N3RR, W8ZA, N3OC, WB2BZR, K1DQV, K3SX, W3ZZ, W6HZW, and N3HBX. In addition, we had two guests: N3YDT, Jim, and KK5ZX, Allen.

K3IXD passed around samples of possible logo changes that he and N3OC came up with in the quest for recognition of our new, larger territory. A quick vote was taken for members opinions of the different designs. N3OC was taking badge orders.

Members Speak:

N3KTV, Jim, discussed recent events a planning at K3MQH for increased microwave activity in the quest for the Unlimited crown. He invited all to join in for a bus-loaded keg party at K3MQH. The price of admission

being a Gunplexer QSO (or two or three)!

NE3H, Joe, mentioned ordering a second motor for his ring rotator. K3MM and N3RR suggested that there was probably something else wrong, probably some binding in the ring system, and that it shouldnt require two motors.

KK5ZX, Al, only operates HF contests. A recent transplant from Louisiana, he's looking for a new home QTH in Sterling, VA.

W6HZW, Barry, is doing lots of Dxing on wires, with a now higher Windom that is working well.

W3ZZ, Gene, is trying to get his station back together.

K3SX, Sid, (ex-K3SME) has the tower base for his new 160M vertical in place.

N3YDT, Jim, knows Roger, K1DQV, well and is W3ZZs roomie.

K1DQV, Roger, came for the beer. He's putting up a 135 rotating pole Big Bertha system which he salvaged from CT. He' s working on the rotator now and aiming at completion in time for Sweepstakes, in which hell operate CW and K3UT will do phone.

WB2BZR, Beezer Bob, is still filling his ditch.

N3OC, Brian, will op the IOTA Contest from NA139 Assateague. He was encouraged when he heard activity from Russian on Saturday AM in the IARU contest.

K3IXD, Ed, has been roving for better rover sites for the September VHF contest.

W8ZA, Bob, has new holes in the ground for his new tower. Hes pouring next week.

N3HBX, John, reports that his 69kv powerline noise is gone however the power company reports that they didnt do anything. He worked some VEs in the 6M contest.

N3RR, Bill, showed off aerial photos of his QTH taken recently.

W3UR, Bernie, made 300 Qs on 20M Single Band with Packet, noting lots of new Headquarter stations on the air. He reports that his virtual DX newsletter, Daily DX, is doing well, and hes getting plenty of material now.

W3EKT, Ed, is looking for more Rover sites and rovers to work K3MQH.

K4VV, Jack, did the June VHF contest with KO4NX on a mountain in Virginia. He's planning on joining W3YOZ in FN00 for the September VHF Contest.

W4MYA OPEN HOUSE 19 JULY MEETING MINUTES by Rich Boyd, KE3Q

Congratulations to W4MYA and wife, Vicky, for putting on a very nice event, the July summer PVRC meeting today, Saturday, 7/19/97. As we've done occasionally when a notepad was not readily at hand, we passed around a sign-in plate, which records these folks present: W4ZYT, WB4DNL, K3OSX, W4SD, NW3K, NQ4E, K4HOT, ND3A, NJ4F, W6AXX, WU4G, W4MYA, WA4QDM, N3RR, W4PRO, K7SV, WA4DAI, N4MXT, AD4TS, WR3Z, N4CFL, W4DR, KD4JXY, WK4Y, KS4RX, KC4AUF, KB4DI, K4EC, N4ZJ, KA3CCE, N3MIL, and KE3Q. There were also some others who had already left by the time we passed the sign-in plate around. Bob or anyone else who was there, please augment our attendance list as others come to your mind. Thank you to the PVRCers from other regions, such as W4SD, W4ZYT and gang from tidewater, the northern Virginia and Marylanders, and the Rappahannock area guys for making the trip, and to the central Virginia guys for hosting us. Hotdogs and hamburgers were plentiful, there were half a dozen coolers with beverages, and there were various other dishes like a couple different styles of chicken and many, many deserts -- excellent cookies, brownies, and cupcakes.

Bob's one-room outbuilding hamshack (not outhouse) is FB and, for those who've never seen it, his antenna farm is substantial, with an interesting aspect being that because of the many trees on Bob's site you don't realize how many towers there are until you walk through the woods and they appear one by one. Since my last visit Bob has added a second 3-el 40 in a two-high stack and has nice monobanders on the other bands with stacks on at least 20 in addition to 40. With thunder rumbling in the distance in a couple different directions the party started breaking up and I grabbed my video camera real quick and made W4MYA the second on my PVRC video station tour (#1 is W3HVQ). Got some quickie video that shows his station very well I think.

We did have a brief meeting, went around with callsign introductions and I thanked our geographically diverse members for unifying under the PVRC banner, which has resulted in, so far, wins in the unlimited category in SS '96, medium class in the ARRL 160 '96, and apparently in the ARRL 10M '96 contest, unlimited category. W4SD invited any of us who find ourselves in the Virginia Beach area on the third Tuesday of any given month to join the SE Virginia PVRCers for their meeting at a local restaurant. For details of time and place, contact me or W4SD and we'll get the info for you. We heartily thanked W4MYA and Vicky for hosting us; W4MYA thanked several central Virginians for handling various aspects of the affair, from food and cooking to tables and setup.

After the meeting, W6AXX showed me some very nice work he's done on the web...maps showing the PVRC geographical center and our 175-mile-radius circle, etc. And we discovered that two of our members at the meeting, KC4AUF and KS4RX, in fact live very close to our geographical center, which is near Louisa, Virginia. K7SV noted, from going to a high school football game in Louisa, that people in Louisa are tough. I suggested they sound like good prospects to become testers.

For several of us in a 3-car caravan, N3RR with W6AXX, K4VV, and N3MIL and I, the car-to-car discussion all the way down and all the way back was an extension of the meeting and made the trip go faster.

Hope to see many of you next month, August 16, at W3YOZ's south of Annapolis, for the annual Fowlfest! As usual, NCDXA, the DC-area DX club, will be jointly meeting with us.

PA CHAPTER MEETING JUNE 7TH by Bruce Schade, K3TZV

The first meeting of the PA Chapter of PVRC was held at the QTH of Steve Steltzer, WF3T, in Newport, PA on June 7th at 7 PM. The following members were in attendance: N6CQ, NE3H, N3KVF, K3SV, K3SWZ, WF3T, and K3TZV.

Steve gave us a tour of this antenna installation and overview of his plans for the future. We then went indoors and held a round of introductions and brief statement of activity and plans. We then watched a video of the VK0IR operation and everyone was quite pleased with the video quality. We had an indoor tour of Steve's station and a demonstration of several computer programs that he is using to plan and analyze his stations performance. I think everyone went home with a smile on their face.

HINTS AND KINKS - PVRC #1 - A SUBSTITUTE FOR STEEL WOOL - K3DI

Use plastic scouring pads when up the tower instead of steel wool. Plastic does not leave residue that may short circuit or start a rust spot

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR - K3DI

I received a RADIOGRAM from W4YE asking if there were PVRC meetings in Roanoke. KE3Q told me that K4IQ agreed to be the regional charman so a message to both W4YE and K4IQ hopefully will get them together to start a subregion in that area.

Pete Soper, KS4XG, and his wife Jenny have a daughter Emily Margaret born July 15th at 5:53 AM. She measured eight pounds, ten ounces and 21 inches long.

I look forward to receiving technical and operating articles of interest to the testers for the PVRC Newsletter. They can be submitted in nearly any format. The safest is ASCII via the Dxcluster or TEXT in an Email. I am starting to be able to retrieve attachments from an Internet messages which, when proficient, that should be a route to send word process files. Of course, written material via FAX or US mail works fine as well as 5.25 and 3.5 inch floppies.

Another category of articles wanted are short Hints and Kinks -- undated filler articles that are used to push the start of the next article to the top of the next page. A H&K example was used on bottom of the previous page.

The final edit of the Newsletter is sent via modem to Jim, N3KTV, who handles the reproduction and distribution. In the past, I modem a WordPerfect 5.1 file to Jim and he had to play with it in MS WORD to fix page breaks. Last month, I did the conversion and it worked fine. This month (at last!), the whole Newsletter was edited in MS WORD 6. I thank

Jim for bearing with me while I got up to speed with MS WORD.

Now, with reproduction compatibility, I will be able to start playing with the format. An ability to easily handle schematic diagrams and photographs is a must.

PVRC IARU HF CONTEST RESULTS
by Dave Blanchard, N3II (#3)

CALL	QSO'S	MULTS	TOTAL
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** SINGLE OP MIXED

K3MM	1957	177	1,328,385
AA4NC	1670	157	890,000
N4AF	1297	151	735,521
K4MA	1302	120	500,640

** SINGLE OP PHONE

WV3B	169	49	27,785
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** SINGLE OP CW

K3ZO	1495	171	1,032,327
N3NT	587	104	206,648
W3CP	226	60	43,296
NY3M	150	49	24,304
